Arm-twisting methods used to boost excise collection

4256. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to meet excise collection in normal circumstances and excise department has been adopting arm-twisting methods to boost collections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps being taken by Government to curb coercive action being taken against excise payers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Revenue collections from Central Excise duties during 2004-2005 was to the tune of Rs. 98632 crore (provisional) as against the Revised Target of Rs. 100000 crore (excluding cess administered by other Departments). The reasons for shortfall are reduction of duties of petroleum products in June, 2004 and August, 2004 and restructuring of duties in the textile sector during 2004-2005 regular Budget. No arm-twisting methods were adopted for boosting the Central Excise revenue collections.

Use of UINs in stock market transactions

4257. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Unique Identification Numbers (UINs) have been issued so far;

(b) whether UINs are unique to every investor or does it change with every transaction of equity and Mutual Fund;

(c) whether UINs are issued by the companies whose enquiries are traded in the stock market or is it issued by the SEBI; and

(d) to what extent have UINs brought about transparency in the stock market transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As on April 28,2005,65,446 corporate and 2,69,110 individuals have been issued Unique Identification Number (UIN) under Securities and Exchange Board of India, (SEBI) [Central Database of Market Participants] Regulations, 2003 (MAPIN Database).

(b) UINs are unique to every investor and do not change with every transaction of equity and mutual funds.

(c) UINs are not issued by companies. UINs are issued by SEBI under SEBI (Central Database of Market Participants) Regulations, 2003. The UIN database is created and maintained by a Designated Service Provider (DSP) for all persons (both natural and judicial). SEBI has appointed National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) as the DSP.

(d) Transparency is not the only objective of an UIN. UIN is also an investigate tool. The uniqueness of an UIN would help SEBI to identify market participants and investors and obtain the audit trails of their transactions speedily and definitively and would assist SEBI in enhancing the level of investor protection. It is expected to facilitate speedy completion of investigations, identifying insider trading and tracking vanishing companies. It is expected to help SEBI to make use of such information at the time of processing of the draft prospectuses and in detecting violations of takeovers regulations.

Implementation of recommendation of round table conferences on Panchayati Raj

4258. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Secretaries of Panchayati Raj of States and Union Territories was convened on 11th April, 2005 to review progress of implementation of recommendations of round table conferences, held last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress so far made in this regard;

(c) whether District Planning Committees have been set up in all the States, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether some deadline has been fixed for the States to complete the process of setting up of the functioning tiers at different levels of Panchayati Raj set up?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKER AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the representatives of the State Governments/UT Administrations indicated the action taken by them